paid back assessment for three years. An extent of about 300 acres of land in the Rani pakuthi on which Pulayas had settled down and made improvements with a view to get them on registry had been assigned to an influential Christian Company. The occupants had been evicted by force and they had to flee for their lives. They had petitioned about the hardships they suffered, but they did not obtain redress. Government orders relating to concessional grants of land to Pulayas remained almost a dead letter. Lands in their occupation and enjoyment were being entered upon by others. He prayed that immediate redress might be granted to them in such cases. Lands for which *ozhugus* had been prepared in their names were assigned to strangers. The improvements usually effected by the Pulayas consisted of tapioca, plantains, &c., and permanent improvements could not be expected from them. Those should be considered sufficient to entitle them to registry.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the lands in the Vilavankod taluk referred to by the Member, they are being surveyed and split up into smaller blocks. The Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, will be asked to inquire into the local complaints mentioned by the Member. The expression 'valuable improvements' in the draft Puduval Rules will be defined when the Rules issue in their final form.

11. Difficulties experienced by the members of the Depressed Classes in the matter of puduval registry.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) conveyed the thanks of his community to His Highness' Government for the concessions allowed in the matter of puduval registry. But the beneficent intentions of Government had not been and were not being fulfilled adequately, as represented at previous sessions. Puduval applications from Pulayas made to the taluk officers were being treated as waste paper. He referred to specific instances of such cases in certain pakuthies of Kottarakara and Pattanamtitta. Pulayas who had occupied puduvals and made improvements thereon in the hope of getting them registered were being evicted. The unjust eviction of a Pulaya from Survey No. 360/1 in the Veliyam Pakuthi, Kottarakara taluk, was stopped only as a result of the Dewan's inspection. Lands for cattle grazing were not reserved in British India, and the grazing blocks reserved in the Kottarakara taluk were unsuitable and unused. The grazing block in Veliyam might be registered in their favour, as they intended to erect a Bhajanamatom there. Model colonies on the plan of the one proposed to be put up on Survey No. 2/1 in the Ala pakuthi, Chengannur taluk, should be erected for them in several parts of the State. The subordinate officers of the Government were indifferent and unsympathetic to them. High and rocky places unsuited for agriculture were often registered in their favour. Puduval lands at the disposal of the Government should be auctioned only after providing land for members of the depressed classes such as Pulayas, Parayas, Kuravas, Vedas and Ulladas. The Member welcomed the legislation to provide for the inalienability of lands granted to them on concessional terms, but thought that the restriction regarding alienation should cease after some time, *i. e.*, when they were able to realise the value of land and the advantages of owning it. He next referred to the fact that many Pulayas were engaged in making baskets, etc., out of *kaitha* leaves and that the P. W. D. subordinates objected to the cutting of *kaitha* leaves from road and other porambokes.

Dewan's reply.—Most of your complaints relate to the doings of subordinate officers. In regard to the local complaints, they have to be remedied by the local officers. Government have already issued general orders in the matter. Further, an Efficiency Audit Officer has been appointed and he will also, if approached, look into these defects. As regards the removal of *kaitha* leaves on poramboke lands, the P. W. D. will be addressed.

Mr. P. Abraham Isaac (Member, Nominated) said that notwithstanding the concessions granted to them by G. O. No. [illegible] R. 2200, dated the 13th April 1917, L. [illegible] assignments of land effected in their [illegible] few owing to the apathy vour the subor[illegible] in his locality and the infl[illegible] influential men. Lands of the[illegible] granted [illegible] and improved upo[illegible]ers or were put up to

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auction, thus depriving them of the fruits of their labours. The truth of the statement would be clear, if an enquiry was instituted by an impartial and conscientious officer into the following points:—

(*a*) the number of applications from the depressed classes for registry of land, presented in the Taluk, Division and Huzur Offices;

(*b*) the total area of the land involved in the applications;

(*c*) area the registry of which had been sanctioned;

(*d*) area actually registered under the G. O.;

(*e*) area sanctioned to be registered in their names but subsequently sold in auction to others;

(*f*) area in respect of which applications had been rejected; and

(*g*) reasons for such rejection in individual cases.

The Member then gave specific particulars of lands for which members of his community had applied, and on some of which they had entered and made improvements in the hope of getting them eventually assigned in their favour. He next requested that a portion of the Kalaketti Reserve in the Minachil taluk be disafforested for registry in the names of depressed classes. The majority of the applicants in the Peermade, Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha taluks had been disappointed owing to the considerable delay in the disposal of the applications. The extent of the lands granted in the Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara taluks was small, though the number of applications was large and as many as 240 applications were sent on the 22nd Makaram 1094. The lands in those taluks from which trees had been removed were being entered upon by rich and influential men from the other communities. Arrangements should be made for granting such lands to the depressed classes. Portions of grazing grounds and other poramboke lands should be assigned to them in the taluks and pakuthies where unoccupied tharisu lands were not available for registry in their names. Such grounds and *kari* lands were available in Vadayar, Manjadikara, Prakad, Vetchur and Kaipazha pakuthies, near the Cochin-Travancore frontier and in the Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara taluks. Some of those grazing grounds contained occupation and did not require reservation. For the habitation of the workmen in the Kuttanad punja lands, the banks of backwaters, canals, etc., should be assigned. Government should declare that, when all the applicants for one piece of land were members of a depressed class, the land should be granted to the earliest applicant, and that when people belonging to different communities had applied for the same land, it should be granted to the applicant who belonged to any of the depressed classes. Lists of available lands throughout the State should be prepared, the blocks to be assigned to converts, etc., should be specified, copies of the lists should be given to the leaders of the several depressed classes, and orders should be issued for applications for such lands being disposed of and possession given within a specified time. Lands for which Pulayas, Parayas, etc., were applicants should not be put up to auction, and sympathetic officers should be appointed in each taluk to deal with their applications for lands.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be considered. In regard to pending applications, the local officers will look into them and see that they are promptly disposed of. The Efficiency Audit Officer will also see that prompt disposal.

12. Registry of puduval lands in the names of the depressed classes, Parayas, Pulayas, &c. without tharavila.

Mr. Yohannan Yohannan (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government on behalf of himself and his community for nominating him to the Assembly. Parayas, Pulayas, &c. had embraced the Christian religion with a view to their eternal salvation. It was, however, a mistake to suppose that all Christians belonged to one community. It was sub-divided, according to the caste from which they were converted, into sects without inter-dining and inter-marriage. All of them should, therefore, be treated on a like footing in the grant of concessions.

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